



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

March 16, 2007

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Senator Shelby,

As you prepare to mark up the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill for the Science, State, Justice and Commerce and Related Agencies, I am writing to urge funding for programs critical to California's criminal justice system.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP): SCAAP continues to be one of my top federal funding priorities. I have continued to work with a bipartisan coalition of governors from across the country to show that the need for SCAAP extends across party lines and has an impact well beyond the southwest border. As you know, in 2005 the Congress passed and the President signed into law the SCAAP reauthorization to provide \$950 million for Fiscal Year 2008. I appreciate your support in increasing the SCAAP appropriation to \$405 million in Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. I urge you to build upon that commitment in the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill.

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Justice Assistance Grants (JAG): Since Fiscal Year 2005 when the federal Edward J. Byrne Memorial Fund was merged with the federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant to form the federal JAG, there have been severe funding reductions for these programs. Additionally, there has been a redistribution of the percentage of funds allocated through state block grants and local discretionary grants. As a result, the JAG funding available to California's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has been significantly reduced. These funds are used to support multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement teams in every county in California, and to support marijuana suppression campaigns in the areas of our state that grow and distribute marijuana nationwide. I appreciate your efforts to provide additional funds for these programs in the Fiscal Year 2007 Continuing Resolution. To build on these efforts I request that the JAG funding be increased to the Fiscal Year 2004 budget amount of \$725 million.

Anti-Gang Programs: Today, there are an estimated 86,000 members of 720 gangs in California. While gangs were once concentrated in urban areas, this is now a problem that exists in communities all over our state. I believe we need a coordinated approach among federal, state and local governments, and I ask for your support to authorize and fund programs such as those included in S. 456 by Senator Feinstein. Fighting gangs in California will require various strategies including suppression, intervention and technology. I urge that you provide funding in Fiscal Year 2008 to build on federal efforts and to provide grants to state and local agencies to combat gangs and gang violence.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT): The RSAT Program is critical in the development and implementation of residential substance abuse treatment programs within California's state and local correctional systems. In Fiscal Year 2003 we received approximately \$6 million for RSAT. I am disappointed that funding for RSAT has significantly decreased in recent years. As a result of the reduction in funding, the number of treatment beds our state has been able to provide has decreased. I ask that RSAT funding be restored to the Fiscal Year 2003 level.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG): Through the JABG program, funds are provided as block grants to states for programs promoting greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. States such as mine have seen a 60 percent reduction in federal juvenile justice grants over the past several years. Money that supported innovation in past years has been replaced by very specific earmarks that have been detrimental to California's juvenile justice system. I am concerned with the President's proposal to eliminate funding for JABG and request, that at a minimum, you maintain level funding from Fiscal Year 2007.

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Protecting Children: I applaud Congress for passing the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act last year. The programs authorized in this law will assist the federal government and states in fighting violence against children and sexual exploitation of minors. I ask that you provide funding in Fiscal Year 2008 for grants authorized by the Adam Walsh Act for key programs such as sex offender registration and notification, sex offender apprehension, online child safety programs and pilot programs for monitoring sexual offenders. I also ask that you maintain funding for missing and exploited children programs at no less than the Fiscal Year 2007 level.

Victim Services Funding: As you know, there are multiple Victim Services Funding programs that provide critical dollars to states such as mine to ensure that the unique needs of crime victims are met. Specifically, I am requesting that at a minimum, funding for the following programs be maintained at the Fiscal Year 2007 level: the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA); the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; and the Children's Justice Act. I would also ask that VAWA formula funds continue to be provided to states instead of creating a new national competitive process for grants.

I am particularly concerned with the administration's proposal to rescind over \$1.3 billion from the Crime Victims Fund and fundamentally change the nature of an important program that has operated successfully since 1982. This key fund represents fines, penalties and bond forfeitures paid by defendants convicted of federal crimes. The program helps impose accountability on offenders and the funds are intended to serve as a dedicated source of revenue for all state VOCA victim assistance and crime victim compensation grants. I urge you to carefully consider the impact of such a move to ensure continued support for California and our crime victims in future years.

Thank you for your consideration of California's appropriations request for criminal justice programs in the Fiscal Year 2008 Science, State, Justice and Commerce and Related Agencies bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", with a stylized, cursive script.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer